

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 14, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Huffman)
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

September 9, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 26, as amended, Chesbro. Climate change.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to establish a comprehensive framework ~~and funding, including dedicated funding, for natural resources adaptation for the protection and conservation of~~ *adapting* our nation's wildlife, habitats, coasts, watersheds, rivers, and other natural resources and ecosystems ~~in the face to the impacts~~ of climate change.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On June 26, 2009, the United States House of
- 2 Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security
- 3 Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454) that includes a comprehensive natural
- 4 resource adaptation program and allocates *dedicated* funds to states
- 5 that adopt a natural resource adaption plan to address the impacts
- 6 of climate change on natural resources within the state's
- 7 jurisdiction; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Climate change presents the most pressing threat
- 9 to California's natural resources in the 21st century; and

1 WHEREAS, California's natural resources provide for and
2 protect the health of our human populations by providing necessary
3 food and water, flood and erosion barriers, disease control,
4 atmospheric carbon removal and storage, and many useful products
5 from our oceans, forests, grasslands, and agricultural landscapes;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, California's economy is linked to the health and
8 vitality of our natural resources, which support the state's valuable
9 agricultural, outdoor recreation, tourism, and other industries; and

10 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need to quickly and significantly
11 address climate change, the California Legislature passed, and the
12 Governor signed, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,
13 which requires robust greenhouse gas emission reductions; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite the success of efforts to reduce greenhouse
15 gas emissions, previous and current emissions have created
16 unavoidable climate change impacts that threaten our natural
17 resources, human communities, and economy; and

18 WHEREAS, California is experiencing these climate change
19 impacts, including documented temperature increases, earlier snow
20 melt, increased wildfire occurrence, sea level rise, rainfall changes,
21 severe weather, and migration of plant and animal species; and

22 WHEREAS, Projected future climate change impacts to
23 California's natural resources and human health over the next
24 century are dramatic and include increased climate-related human
25 mortality, destruction of manmade infrastructure, high intensity
26 wildfires, increased flooding, increased drought, reduced snowpack,
27 decreased water supply and quality, altered timing of essential
28 ecosystem functions, food supply disruption, increased sea level
29 rise, and increased extinction of fish, wildlife, and plants; and

30 WHEREAS, Climate change impact adaptation planning and
31 program implementation is essential to guard against these
32 catastrophic natural, human, and economic impacts; and

33 WHEREAS, California recognizes the need for cost-effective,
34 comprehensive action to guard against climate change impacts to
35 our state's natural resources, human population, and economy and,
36 in coordination with efforts targeting greenhouse gas mitigation
37 policies, is developing a statewide climate adaptation strategy to
38 help the state prepare for these climate change impacts; and

39 *WHEREAS, Natural resources climate change adaptation*
40 *projects, including invasive species removal, wetlands restoration,*

1 *riparian and other habitat restoration, removal of unused logging*
2 *roads, and wildfire protection, are labor intensive and will create*
3 *new jobs; and*

4 WHEREAS, A comprehensive federal framework and *dedicated*
5 funding for climate change adaptation is of special interest to the
6 state because of the particular threats climate change poses to
7 California's natural resources, people, and economy; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
10 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
11 respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States
12 establish a comprehensive framework ~~and funding, including~~
13 ~~dedicated funding, for natural resources adaptation for the~~
14 ~~protection and conservation of~~ *adapting* our nation's wildlife,
15 habitats, coasts, watersheds, rivers, and other natural resources
16 and ecosystems ~~in the face to the impacts~~ of climate change; and
17 be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each
21 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
22 United States, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the Secretary of
23 Agriculture, to the Secretary of Commerce, and to the
24 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
25 Administration.